



@USNPEOPLE WEEKLY WIRE

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1.) Prizes on Tap in New Innovation Awards Contest/ 30 AUG 15

NAVY TIMES, Meghann Myers

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus has made it his mission to instill an innovation culture from the highest rungs of the Navy down to the deckplates, and is offering prizes like cash and plum assignments.

Earlier this year he launched his Task Force Innovation site, which allows sailors to submit ideas and have them evaluated and acted on by top-level staff. As a complement to that program, on Aug. 24 he launched his Innovation Awards Program to reward the best ideas coming from sailors, Marines and Navy Department civilians.

What you need to know to get yourself or a shipmate nominated:

Submission process. The Innovation Awards Program is separate from Task Force Innovation and its sub-sites, so sailors need not have formally submitted an innovative idea previously to be considered. Nominations are open until Oct. 31. There are eight categories to submit ideas at www.secnav.navy.mil/innovation/Pages/awards.aspx.

Multiple categories.

- Robotics/autonomous systems: This award recognizes contributions in robotics and autonomous systems.
- Data analytics: For members of the data-savvy workforce who have implemented new approaches to using data analytics to improve performance or decision-making.
- Additive manufacturing: For efforts that have yielded “cost savings, improved readiness, expanded fleet or fleet support capabilities or led to innovative warfighter solutions.”
- Innovation leadership: Recognizes military or civilian Navy leaders who promote and foster innovation.
- Innovation scholarship: For top-performing officers in professional military education programs and future officers currently in commissioning programs.
- Enlisted innovator: “It is widely known that those closest to the problems often have the best solutions,” said a Navy release announcing the program. This category is for the top enlisted idea.
- Innovation catalyst: For an individual who has inspired others in his or her organization to innovate, or who has directly supported another’s innovative work.
- Outside the box: If your idea doesn’t fit into of the other categories, this is a catch-all for the outliers.

Judging process. Submissions will be verified by the Navy’s Office of Strategy and Innovation, including checking references from a superior officer or senior civilian.

“Once the top packages are identified, they will be ranked by experts in each field,” Navy spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Nicole Schwegman told Navy Times on Aug. 27. “The final selection will be made by the secretary of the Navy.”

Winners will be announced in January, she added.

There are prizes. Winners can receive an array of rewards, which will be at Mabus’s discretion.

“Since the Department of the Navy has a large and diverse workforce, we wanted to ensure we had several options to incentivize as many people as possible to participate,” Schwegman said.

Cash prizes are under consideration, as are a winner’s choice of their next set of orders, or a training or education opportunity that the service member has been eyeing.

Culture of innovation. SECNAV's Task Force Innovation brings together several initiatives, some of which already existed in the fleet, like the Reducing Administrative Distractions program.

The Innovation Awards Program is one prong of that larger task force, which has five main goals, Mabus announced in April.

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The BI2F training covers several topic areas and counts for the fraternization, hazing, physical readiness and sexual health General Military Training (GMT) requirements for FY15.

"Our goal is to significantly reduce unacceptable behaviors including fraternization, hazing, sexual harassment and sexual assault in the fleet," said Rear Adm. Mike White, commander of Naval Education and Training Command (NETC). "BI2F provides the tools and training to equip our Sailors to recognize potentially risky situations and act appropriately to help shipmates make the right decisions; intervening if necessary."

BI2F uses peer-to-peer training that encourages open, honest dialogue among Sailors of similar age and experience level. The training is facilitated using interactive videos and small-group peer discussion.

According to Capt. Patty Enright, BI2F Task Force chief of staff, the new BI2F training was based on Sailor feedback and lessons learned from earlier Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) efforts.

"BI2F reinforces the Navy's core values, especially courage - the courage to do the right thing before an assault or mishap occurs," said Enright. "The skills-based, peer-led training is designed to prevent destructive behaviors and promote an environment of professionalism, respect, and trust for everyone."

Specific BI2F training details are spelled out in NAVADMIN 275/14 and commands may access BI2F training information, including frequently asked questions (FAQs), via the Navy Personnel Command 21st Century Sailor webpage at http://www.npc.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/21st_Century_Sailor/Pages/default.aspx.

For more news from Naval Education and Training Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnet/.

3.) Uniform Update NAVADMIN Released / 1 SEP 15 [LINK](#)

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Personnel released a uniform policy update in NAVADMIN 208/15 Sept. 1, providing details of upcoming uniform releases and the end of wear date for some little worn uniform components.

Below are the key uniform NAVADMIN policy changes, which will go into effect Oct. 1:

- New Recruits at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, will be issued the double breasted all weather coat. The current single breasted all weather coat will remain optional for wear until Oct. 1, 2020, when the double breasted coat becomes mandatory. Enlisted clothing replacement allowances will be adjusted to cover the cost of this uniform change by the mandatory wear date.

- The sea bag requirement for the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type 1 will be three sets of uniforms instead of four. Enlisted clothing replacement allowances will be adjusted to support the three sets with a replacement cycle of one set every twenty-four months.

- A new optional black cold weather parka (CWP) will be authorized for wear. The parka is estimated to be available for purchase in November at Navy Uniform Stores at Norfolk Naval Base and Joint Base Myer - Henderson Hall, Ft. Myer, Virginia, Newport, Rhode Island and the Navy Exchange Uniform Support Call Center. The CWP is made of a water proof and wind resistant fabric. Features of the CWP include a hidden hood, center-chest rank tab and ability to support the zip-in zip-out NWU Type 1 fleece liner for additional cold weather protection. It will be authorized for wear with service and service dress uniforms and with civilian clothing when the rank tab is removed.

- Based on the wear of the flame resistant coverall (FRV) at sea and the NWU type 1 ashore as the standard daily working uniform, the Navy Blue Coverall will be discontinued as a Navy uniform and re-designated as a dirty work component only. Sailors will wear only the name tape on the coveralls. This policy decision is based on the required wear of the flame resistant coverall at sea and the NWU1 ashore as the standard daily working uniforms. Two sets of coveralls will continue to be issued and maintained in the sea bag for all enlisted Sailors.

- Unit commanding officers at sea or regional commanders will be able to grant permission to wear the Navy Black Knit Watch Cap for Sailors during cold weather conditions. The watch cap can be worn with service dress and service uniforms, except service dress white and summer white uniforms when worn with appropriate outer wear (specifically, NWU and CWP, all weather coat, reefer, pea coat and bridge coat). The cap cannot be worn with the Eisenhower jacket as it is not considered cold weather outer wear.

Additionally, effective immediately, flag officers may now wear a command-at-sea or a command ashore/project manager insignia pin they previously earned. This change recognizes the importance and commitment the Navy places on command. Flag officers shall wear the pin in the post command position, and only one pin can be worn.

Some uniforms components are being discontinued, due to their infrequent wear and use by Sailors. The uniform items that will no longer be authorized for wear beginning Oct. 1, 2016, include the male officer and chief petty officer (CPO) boat cloak; the women's dress cape for officers and CPOs, tiara and beret; for men and women -- the khaki windbreaker for officers and CPO and overshoes.

For more information, please view NAVADMIN 208/15, posted on the NPC Web site at www.npc.navy.mil .

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

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DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, September 1, 2015 — The desire to defend those who defend the nation shaped Defense Secretary Ash Carter's commitments to the force, a national security strategy that meets this century's needs and plans for the force of the future -- where innovation and technology are pillars of American strength -- he said today at the 97th American Legion National Convention in Baltimore.

Addressing some 5,000 delegates from legion posts around the country, the defense secretary told the Legionnaires that above all else, "our people" are what make our military the finest fighting force the world has ever known.

"Few others know better than you: Our greatest responsibility is to make sure we never put a single one of America's brave sons or daughters or their families in harm's way without the greatest care and reflection about why we're doing it and how it benefits our nation," he said.

Carter said in the next few years, about 1.5 million veterans from the 9/11 generation will join the 2.5 million people who have already left the military.

"How do we lay a foundation for veteran support needed 10, 20 [or] 30 years from now? How do we stay relevant and attract new leaders who will carry forth our missions?" he asked.

Every strategic decision should be a step to keep the nation safe and protect its allies and friends now and in the future, he said.

Addressing Current, Future Threats

As service members remain engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan to preserve gains the nation helped secure, DoD must also "turn the corner and look ahead to a full spectrum of threats today and into the future -- where our focus must be broader than counterinsurgency," Carter said.

"In the Asia-Pacific, our rebalance toward the region -- where nearly half of humanity and the world's economies reside -- is aimed at preserving a security architecture strong enough, capable enough and connected enough to ensure all nations have the opportunity to continue to rise," he said.

While peaceful solutions to disputes are needed, "The United States will fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows, as we do all around the world," he said, citing the concerns of the U.S. and other nations about China's land reclamation in the South China Sea.

The nation's strategy also supports its European allies, counters Russian aggression and bolsters the NATO alliance, Carter said, and added that the situation in the Middle East is complex.

"We will deliver a lasting defeat to [the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant]," the secretary said. "With a global coalition of some 60 nations, we're taking the fight to ISIL across the physical, virtual, and ideological battlespace. Our coalition has conducted over 6,500 airstrikes, severely hampering ISIL's movement and operations and systematically eliminating this evil group's leadership."

Carter said another important piece of U.S. strategy in the Middle East is the deal to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. Regardless of circumstances, "Those who wish to do us harm will never find safe haven. If you threaten American lives you will answer for it, no matter what it takes," the secretary said.

Military Must Embrace Change

Today's military has no equal, but it must embrace change that has several dimensions, Carter said.

"We have to be open to the wider world of technology. We need a sensible long-term budget that does right by our military and taxpayers. And we need a 21st century personnel system to match a 21st century military -- that's what I call our force of the future," he said, adding, "Our unrivaled military must double down on an unrivaled American strength -- our capacity for game-changing innovation."

Stronger bridges between DoD and the technology community are taking form, Carter noted, adding that investments in innovation and pushing research and development is producing growth in areas such as robotics, data science, cybersecurity, biotech and hypersonic engines.

And in addition to the best technology, DoD also needs the best people, Carter said.

“To support today’s force and meet tomorrow’s threats, we need long-term budget certainty. Our troops need the best training, the newest equipment, and the right compensation. For too long we’ve been forced to make painful tradeoffs, often on short notice, critically undermining our mission,” he said.

Personnel Changes Under Consideration

Proposals to change the personnel system also are under way, the secretary said. “We are thinking many ideas through and we need time to get the best ideas and advice, both from our services and groups like yours, the Legion,” he said.

“We’re pushing for flexibility by building on-ramps and off-ramps to give our people more choices, because wherever compatible with service needs, it shouldn’t feel like you have to choose between pursuing a promotion, supporting a family, or getting a quality education,” Carter said.

The two women who recently graduated Army Ranger school represent a future trend where a strategy of attracting the best personnel for the job from the widest possible pool of candidates. This means DoD keeps pace with change and stays open to the talents and strengths of all Americans who can contribute to the excellence of today’s force -- one where recruitment, retention and readiness are modernized in a way that’s worthy of a 21st century force, he said.

“To stay the best, we must keep our focus on our greatest strength, our people,” the secretary said. “If we do right by our people ... America’s security will be assured for generations to come.”
(Follow Terri Moon Cronk on Twitter: @MoonCronkDoD)

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